

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
Tadamitsu KISHIMOTO et al.

Serial No. 08/817,084

Group Art Unit: 1644

Filed: April 7, 1997

Examiner: F. Vandervegt

For: CHRONIC RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS
THERAPY CONTAINING IL-6
ANTAGONIST AS EFFECTIVE
COMPONENT

#15
M.J.J
9/17/98
(NB)

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SEP 16 1998

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

U.S. CUSTOMER
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Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated April 10, 1998, applicants request that the above-identified application be reconsidered in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 19-29 are pending and have been rejected.
Claims 19-29 remain in the case.

The examiner questions whether claims 19-29 are entitled to the benefit under 35 USC §120 of the filing date of application Serial No. 08/265,520. It appears that the examiner's concern in this regard is substantive and not procedural, as he comments that "'a method for inhibiting synovial cell growth', 'method of treating chronic rheumatoid arthritis' and 'suppresses abnormal growth of synovial cells' were not disclosed in priority application.'" The examiner's reference to "priority document" is somewhat confusing, however, since "right of